mulation of the night, by the action of steam-boats was cleared away in the day, and in this respect they had a salutary effect not experienced at the former period. The removal of Old London-bridge had also been attended with good results, as it had increased the flow and sweep of the river. At any rate, the removal of deposit to the Thames was a less evil than keeping it under the houses.

A vote of thanks was passed to the water companies who had gratuitously supplied water for the service of the sewers for twelve months.

The Ordnance Survey of the Metropolis.—Mr. Chadwick reported, in reference to this subject, that the whole of the Westminster district had been surveyed and plotted, and that a great portion of other districts had been chained and surveyed.

In addition to the whole of the city of Westminster, they had surveyed Surrey and Kent, the lower part of Finsbury, and a great part of the Tower Hamlets divisions, embracing five-sixths of the most crowded portions of the metropolis. In fact, he might say, that five-sixths of Davis's Map of London was now covered with the works of the survey.

Sanitary State of Christ Church Parish, Blackfriars-road.—A report having been received from the surveyor on the sanitary condition of this district, and complaints having been made as to nuisances arising from the works of this commission, which had been done at the request of the inhabitants themselves, the following resolutions of the General Purposes Committee were agreed to:—

"That an application was made to this commission in January last, representing the condition of the inhabitants adjoining the boundary ditch, Blackfriars-road, in consequence of noxious effluvia arising from it, the commissioners in consequence ordered it to be covered in, and have relieved the inhabitants of that district.

"That some of the parties who signed the memorial are the parties who now complain of their prayer having been complied with.

"The commissioners having caused an examination to be made by their surveyors of the state of the sewers of Christ Church, find that those sewers contain a large amount of deposit—that noxious emanations must necessarily arise from deposit—that from representations made to the commissioners it appears that the inhabitants have long been subject to grievous annoyances from this source; that the sewers in question have not been flushed, and, consequently, that the operation of flushing cannot be the cause of the evils complained of—that the commissioners think it right to guard the public against these attempts to attribute old evils to new operations—that the commissioners are considering the means of placing the sewers and drainage of the district in a satisfactory state, which, however, cannot be effected on any general plan until the metropolitan survey is completed; but in the meantime, the commissioners have directed their surveyor to do whatever may be practicable to afford immediate relief, though it may only be partial and temporary."

Miscellanea.

BURSTING OF A RESERVOIR.—At Over Darwen, Lancashire, during a storm of lightning and rain, one of the embankments of a water lodge, near the town, burst, rushed through the town, and into inhabited cellars, where twelve persons were unfortunately drowned, and others terror stricken, and fully persuaded that the whole world was at an end. The reservoir was constructed about four years ago, for Messrs. Shorrock, cotton-spinners. In evidence, Mr. John Isherwood, who constructed it, stated that the embankment was 14 feet high, 100 feet wide at the bottom, and 8 feet wide at the top, with a puddle wall in the centre 5 feet at the bottom, and 3 at the top. It was almost entirely swept away, carrying off the earth, stone, and sand, about 80 feet long, 50 or 60 feet in width, and 30 or 40 feet in depth. Having thus forced an outlet, the torrent rushed over the precipice in front falling about 40 feet, into a stream, conveying the water from the bye-wash to the town, and which it suddenly raised to a height of 10 or 12 feet, rushing furiously onwards to the town—tearing up the banks, uprooting trees, and carrying away hedges, pieces of timber, large stones, &c.—till it reached the village, where the more serious disasters occurred. Mr. Bury, a surgeon, stated in evidence, that he had always suspected the bank was insufficient, and that he had seen water oozing out of the bottom of it; but Mr. Evans, railway contractor, considered it equal to its situation, and its ordinary purposes. The enlargement of the bye-wash and culvert in the town, however, was recommended by a jury.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders for the erection of the College of the Church of England Training Institution, at Cheltenham; by 25th inst., for the erection of a bridge, &c., over the river Bure, Great Yarmouth; by same date, for the erection of a workhouse, at Wokingham, Berks; by 19th, for the erection of a number of houses and carriage sheds for the South-Eastern Railway Company; and by 22nd, for the building of a police station and lock-up house, Shotley-bridge, Durham.

GREAT DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS BY FIRE.—At Albany, the capital of the state of New York, on 17th ult., most of the commercial portion of the city, with fifteen or twenty densely populated streets and squares, were in five hours reduced to ruins, extending to more than half a mile, and covering an area of 200 acres, every foot of which was densely covered with buildings. Four-fifths were brick, most of them large and substantial; many three and four stories high. The latest accounts represent that 439 valuable houses were destroyed; besides a great many canal boats, and the Columbia-street bridge, and market. Many lives were lost, and the destruction of property amounted to more than 3,000,000 dollars, or 600,000*l.* sterling. —— Constantinople could not be behind hand of course, while so splendid a conflagration was in progress; so we have now, as usual, to add to the preceding another of those indeed tremendous fires which are the perpetual curse of this wooden city: in truth, it is wonderful to find it still among the list of existing cities at all. On the present occasion 2,500 shops and bazaars, and 500 houses, have been utterly consumed, and property to the value of three millions sterling destroyed. There were a number of fine buildings, palaces, mosques, khans, baths, and granaries, among those burnt, besides thirty laden vessels, the Government woodyard, and wax manufactory, &c. A great many lives were lost, and many wealthy people ruined. ——The great comet, we perceive, has appeared! it will have much to answer for, no doubt, ere it vanish.

HOW THEY BUILD HOUSES IN NEW YORK.—There was once a gentleman who, having moved into a house in Hudson-street, tilted his chair backward against the front wall after dinner, as all Americans do, to enjoy his cigar. The dining-room was on the second-floor. The wall gave way behind him, and he was spilled into the street. He was an alderman, and luckily pitched upon his head, or perhaps he might have been hurt. He had a two hours' headache as it was. When he sought damages at the Court of Common Pleas, he was nonsuited, on the ground that living in a house in New York he must have been aware of the peril, and was not entitled to compensation for harm of his own wilful or careless seeking.—A washerwoman in Canal-street, going to drive a nail into the brick wall of the next house, thereto to attach her clothes line, struck the iron through into the skull of the tenant, who happened to be taking his afternoon nap in the posture of the sufferer of the preceding story, and killed him as dead as Sisera. She was tried for manslaughter therefor.—*Boston Herald.*

TIMBER STEALING IN THE NEW FOREST.—A thorough investigation appears to be going on into the disposal of the timber in the New Forest, which is surrounded by ostensible timber-merchants, some of whom have been little better than receivers of stolen timber. It is rumoured that Government mean to disafforest the district altogether. The election of vacant offices is in the meantime suspended, and the books of the deputy surveyor, it is said, have been seized, and various other inquisitive measures adopted. There seems some mystery about the transaction.

CAEN STONE.—Several correspondents have addressed us on the subject of Caen stone (its value or otherwise), and we are disposed to give consideration to their inquiries at a convenient opportunity. A visit to the *quarries* will alone enable us to reply as to the inquiry, "Is Mr. A. able to send us as good stone as Mr. B.," and this we may be led perhaps to make. We quite agree with the very eminent architect who is amongst our correspondents on the subject, that it is one of very considerable importance. Like most other stone, it needs great care in selection.

A PATTERN FOR EMPLOYERS.—At the dinner annually given by Mr. Pemberton Leigh to his workpeople at Hindley, near Wigan, Mr. Leigh has announced a plan by which he shall endeavour to instil a prudential spirit of saving into the minds of his dependents. On the Monday following, he should place to the credit of every one of his workmen, in the Wigan Saving Bank, 2*l.*; and when he had done so, they would have perfect control over that sum. Further he should not interfere, as every man had a perfect right to do what he pleased with his own. They might draw it out and spend it if they thought proper; for, after he had given it to them, it was their own, and he wished no further control over it. But he advised them to add to it; and as an encouragement to do so, for all sums deposited by the people during the first year he would add double the amount as a gift. He said he should interfere no further in the matter, but leave his agent to carry out the plan he had described.—*Bradford Observer.*

NOVEL APPLICATION OF GLASS.—We hear that a glass manufacturing firm at Birmingham are now engaged in the manufacture of a pair of glass doors, the framework of which is, of course, wood. On either side are two pilasters composed of crystal glass, fluted with gold. The lower panels are of silvered glass, each ornamented by a centre star, richly cut. The upper panel is of the large dimensions of four feet by two and a half, and is of plate glass, with an etched border. The upper portion of the doorway is inlaid with richly cut glass, and the entablature is composed of crystal and plain glass. The whole is surmounted by a large shell, and on either hand are vases with flowers, &c. The dimensions of the work are seventeen feet by ten.

THE FIRE ANNIHILATOR.—The "Inventor and patentee" of this machine has addressed a letter to us in reply to "Philanthropist," but does not give any sufficient reason why, if the invention be really useful (as it seems to be), it should not be made available at once. He says: "But, Sir, how, if after due knowledge of the existence of the discovery of easy means of subduing fires, nay, conflagrations, we should again hear repeated the discouraging decision in a powerful quarter I will omit to name, 'We are perfectly satisfied with our own means of extinguishing fire?' Then surely the people's ire will rise, and then will be understood how the 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' have been wielded against the 'fire annihilator.'

LANDLORD AND TENANT.—Mr. Clarke, a sculptor, rented a house in Manchester of a Mr. Holford, agreeing to pay rent in advance on due notice. During the tenant's absence at Sheffield, however, the rent was called for, in advance, without due notice, as alleged; and the property on the premises was sold at a great sacrifice by an auctioneer, said to be ignorant of its worth, sculpture and other articles, valued at 400*l.*, yielding only 60*l.* In an action brought by the tenant at the Northern Circuit, held at Liverpool, such was the plaintiff's case; while the defendant alleged that due notice had been given, and the property fairly appraised, though few purchasers could be found. Verdict for plaintiff, on the ground that no rent was due, and that the value of the property taken was, with the fixtures, 275*l.* The plaintiff being entitled to double value, the amount received will be 550*l.*

MARBLE CAPITALS.—A number of Corinthian capitals (both of columns and pilasters), sculptured in marble, have been sent to England to find a purchaser, and could be had cheaply. They were originally made, if we are rightly informed, for the mausoleum of Marshal Vauban, but were not used.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—At the new University-hall works now in progress at Gordon-square, London-wall, seven workmen having suddenly seated themselves, on Saturday last, on some boards resting on a pole 7 inches thick, let 4½ inches into the wall, and attached to a like vertical pole at the opposite end, their weight, added to that of a number of bricks, broke the horizontal pole near the end attached to the vertical one, and precipitated the poor fellows a depth of 40 feet, together with bricks, scaffolding, mortar, &c., and killed one on the spot, fractured the skull of another, and more or less injured all.

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